

## Bible 9/10: Semester Exam Study Guide

Assumptions from Genesis 1:1

### “In the beginning”

1. God is—He exists
2. God always was—he is eternal
3. The beginning of what?
  - a. Matter
  - b. Time
  - c. Space
4. People are temporal (bound by time; temporary)

### “God created”

1. God
  - a. “Elohim” is a Hebrew word for “God” that emphasizes his power.
  - b. We use the word “omnipotent” which means God is all-powerful.
2. Created
  - a. “Bara” is a Hebrew word which means God created out of nothing.
  - b. The Latin phrase, “ex nihilo” also means God created out of nothing.
  - c. Creation was instantaneous
  - d. God created by speaking
  - e. God created for his own glory and pleasure.

### “the heavens and the earth”

1. God created galaxies, constellations, stars, planets, moons, etc.
2. God created with purpose
3. God created with design
4. God is *transcendent*—he is separate from and beyond creation.
5. God is *immanent*—he is close to and involved with creation.

Opposite Equations about Creation (it was either...)

Personal God  
+ Power  
+ Plan  
Purpose (meaning)

Impersonal force  
+ Chance  
+ Time  
Purposeless (meaningless)

## Learning about God from Genesis 1-3

### *What is God?*

1. God *exists*
  - a. Genesis 1:1 begins with an assumption—*God is*.
  - b. God is not *made* or *created*; humans are. (1:1, 26)
  - c. God is *separate* from his creation. (1:1, 26-27)
2. God is *eternal*
  - a. Before the *world* was, God was. (1:1)
  - b. *Time* began at creation. (1:1— “In the beginning...”)
  - c. God can give eternal *life*. (3:22)
3. God is *one*, yet *more* than one.
  - a. *God* (1:1)
  - b. “The *Spirit* of God” (1:2)
  - c. “Let *us* make man in *our* image” (1:26-27)
4. God is *perfect*
  - a. Creation was *ideal*. (1:31)
  - b. God established *standards*. (2:16-17)
5. God is *powerful*
  - a. God can do *anything* according to his *character*. (1:1)
  - b. God created the world by *himself* out of *nothing*. (1:1)
  - c. God’s power is *supernatural* and extraterrestrial. (1-3)

### *What does God do?*

1. God *creates*.
  - a. Creation is *initiated* by God. (1:1)
  - b. *All* things are brought into being by God. (1:1)
  - c. Creation is *instantaneous*. (1:3)
2. God *designs*
  - a. God designs his *plans* for creation. (1)
  - b. God’s plan is *orderly*. (1)
  - c. God establishes *creation* order. (1)
3. God *communicates*
  - a. God *speaks* in order to create. (1:3, 6)
  - b. God speaks with *people*. (2:16)
  - c. God speaks with *Himself*. (1:26)
  - d. God speaks with the *serpent*. (3:14)
4. God *judges*
  - a. God *sets* ethical standards. (2:16-17)
  - b. God *upholds* ethical standards. (3:16-17)
5. God *provides*
  - a. God provides *food* for people. (1:29)
  - b. God provides *companionship*. (2:18)

How do people know about God?

1. *Supernatural* (special) revelation

- a. *Jesus*
- b. *Bible*
- c. *Personal* communication

2. *Natural* revelation

- a. *Creation*
- b. Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal *power* and divine *nature*—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been *seen*, so that men are without *excuse*.

- c. Psalm 19:1-6

The *heavens* declare the glory of God;  
the *skies* proclaim the work of his hands.

<sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they display *knowledge*.

<sup>3</sup> There is no speech or language  
where their voice is *not* heard.

<sup>4</sup> Their voice goes out into all the *earth*,  
their words to the ends of the *world*.

In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,

<sup>5</sup> which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

<sup>6</sup> It rises at one end of the heavens  
and makes its circuit to the other;  
*nothing* is hidden from its heat.

## A Basic Bible Study Method

1. Observation: What does it say?
2. Interpretation: What does it mean?
3. Correlation: What is the relationship with other Scripture?
4. Application: What am I going to do about it?

## Evidences for God's Existence

1. Argument from religion—God/gods have been worshipped throughout human history
2. Cosmological argument—Origins
3. Moral argument—Universal right/wrong
4. Ontological argument—Being
5. Teleological argument—Design

## Attributes of God

1. God is Sovereign
  - a. God is the supreme and ultimate authority
  - b. God does not have to seek permission
  - c. God does not have to explain himself
2. God is Immanent
  - a. God is close to and involved with
  - b. God suffers and redeems
3. God is Omniscient
  - a. God knows everything
  - b. His knowledge includes the past, present and future
4. God is Omnipotent
  - a. God is all-powerful
  - b. His only limits are self-imposed
5. God is Omnipresent—God is everywhere present at all times
6. God is Transcendent
  - a. God is separate from his creation
  - b. God is beyond his creation
7. God is good—His goodness leads him to be kind and full of good will toward all creation
8. God is love
  - a. His love is so great that He gave His only Son to bring us to Himself.
  - b. His love is not only for the world, but also for each of us personally
9. God is immutable
  - a. He cannot change
  - b. He is perfect and will remain perfect

10. God is just
  - a. He rules with absolute justice and is not fooled by appearances
  - b. He is fair and impartial in all of His judgments
11. God is holy
  - a. His holiness is not simply better than the best we can imagine
  - b. He is absolutely untainted
  - c. His holiness is unique and incomprehensible
12. God is merciful—His compassion is infinite and inexhaustible
13. God is faithful—His promises will be honored
14. God is wrathful
  - a. His wrath is not careless or irritable, as human anger often is
  - b. It is a right and necessary reaction to moral evil
15. God is gracious
  - a. He gives mercy where it is undeserved
  - b. He forgives debt that cannot be repaid
  - c. “Grace means there is nothing you can ever do to make God love you more and nothing you can ever do to make God love you less.” ~ Philip Yancey